

## CLAIMS

We claim:

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1. A method of managing a data system designed to ensure the integrity of data and a file system designed to manage files, comprising the steps of:
  - (a) ensuring data from an external sources is received by the data system;
  - (b) ensuring the data is copied from the data system to the file system; and
  - (c) interpreting metadata to ensure data integrity is maintained during the copying of data from the data system to the file system.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the data system that is designed to ensure the integrity of the data is a relational database following ACID protocols.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the metadata is stored in the relational database.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the data is performed through a communications device from an external source.
5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
  - (d) directing a request to retrieve the data to:  
the data system when the request is made prior to when the metadata indicates that the step of copying the data to the file system has been completed;  
or  
the file system after the metadata indicates that the step of copying the data to the file system has been completed.

1 6. The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of:

2 (e) ensuring the data is backed up; and

3 (f) ensuring the data on the data system is deleted after the metadata indicates  
4 that the step of copying the data to the file system has been completed.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of using the metadata to determine  
2 whether a request to retrieve the data should be directed to the file system.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the metadata includes information concerning  
2 location of a most recent version of the data and the step of using the metadata.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising the step of using the information  
2 concerning location to determine where a request to retrieve the data should be directed.

1 10. The method of claim 3 wherein the integrity of the data is ensured during copy,  
2 transfer, delete, wipe, rename, and backup operations through use of the metadata.

1 11. The method of claim 3 wherein the integrity of the data is ensured during copy,  
2 transfer, delete, wipe, rename, and backup operations through use of the metadata by using  
3 minimum ACID protocols.

1 12. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of applying a filter to the data  
2 during the step copying the data from the data system to a file system.

1 13. The method of claim 12 wherein the filter is either an anti-virus filter, an access-  
2 control filter or a security filter, or some combination thereof.

1 14. A method for storing data, comprising the steps of:

- 2 (a) initially receiving the data into a data system that is designed to ensure the
- 3 integrity of the data;
- 4 (b) copying the data from the data system to a file system, designed to manage
- 5 files, using protocols that ensure the integrity of data during the copying; and
- 6 (c) creating metadata that can be used to ensure the integrity of the data and
- 7 describe and track the state and location of the data.

1 15. A method of transferring data between a first system and a second system while  
2 ensuring the integrity of the data, comprising the steps of:

- 3 (a) using metadata to determine when the data transfer is in progress;
- 4 (b) using metadata to determine when the data transfer has been successfully
- 5 completed; and
- 6 (c) using the metadata to indicate when rollback procedures can be initiated from
- 7 a backup.

1 16. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of directing a request to access  
2 the data to the second system when the metadata indicates that a data transfer has been  
3 successfully completed.

1 17. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step of directing a request to access  
2 the data to the first system when the metadata does not indicate that a data transfer has been  
3 successfully completed.

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